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The San Diego Union-Tribune

Sunday, December 14, 1997

ROMANCE AND REALITY

Juicy thrills leave author's lofty messages somewhat soggy

Doug Payne teaches 20th-century literature and theory at USD.

Reviewed by Doug Payne

Karen Palmer's first novel surges with narrative juice. She sends a cast of quirky characters moving at a breakneck pace through a series of extreme situations in and around 1950s New Orleans in quest of goals they scarcely comprehend.

But is juice enough?

Harlan Desonnier, just released from prison eight years after killing his wife in a jealous rage, wants revenge on the man who destroyed his happiness, as well as atonement for his own misdeeds — a clean slate and a way to return home to the family farm in Cajun country. Driven by these disparate impulses, he goes in search of advice, only to be rerouted by his fascination with Glory Wiltz, the emergency-room nurse who stitches up his lip after a fistfight and a freak accident mar his first night of freedom.

Glory Wiltz has a baroque emotional life of her own. The daughter of Hollywood communists, she came to New Orleans, fell in love, married and had a child, but gradually came to realize that life as a member of an interracial family was more difficult than she had expected. (Glory is of Irish descent; her musician husband, Joey, is African-American.) Currently separated, she is still trying to figure out her relationship to Joey, to their son Raymond, to New Orleans and to her career when Harlan enters her life.

ALL SAINTS

Karen Palmer
Soho,
260 pages, \$24

Palmer's characters, riven by guilt and longing, inhabit a world of romance, a world supercharged with emotion and relatively unbounded by routine. "All Saints" aspires to be more than escapist romance, however. With its references to prison life and moral crises, its portrayals of the denizens of the charity hospital and the unsavory sections of the city, and above all its sustained preoccupation with race, the novel seeks to ground its romantic fantasies in a historical reality marked by material inequities and suffering.

When a novel asks to be taken seriously, we ask for more than juicy entertainment. Unfortunately, Palmer's skill at providing romantic thrills is somewhat at odds with her loftier ambitions.

The pacing is not conducive to reflection. So much happens in such a short span of time that the characters ricochet from crisis to crisis, always in motion. Palmer uses the technique artfully to introduce plot twists, but when it comes to major characters and relationships, we are left with a knowledge deficit.

We don't know how reasonable Joey's and Glory's expectations were about living as an interracial couple, or what forms social disapproval took. Neither do we know what they saw in each other originally, or enough about the texture of their life together, to assess Glory's present ambivalence. If Palmer is suggesting the white characters' spiritual malaise derives in part from failure to understand the experience of black people, then it seems incumbent upon her some-

how to convey the human weight and complexity her characters have been overlooking.

Palmer's black characters remain types, all "positive," none real. Joey is a phenomenal musician,

careful "with every living thing." His new lover, LaTess, has "smooth dark skin and golden cat eyes ... even white teeth, and pink lips shaped into a permanent perfect kiss," a "strong physicality" and a folksy wisdom.

"Families is made more of good intentions than blood. Made of love," she explains to Glory. Preacher Telford Gaudin has a sincere, passionate faith. Despite the author's approval, these traits fail to challenge the traditional discourse of racism.

Although Palmer resorts to Hollywood clichés to describe Harlan's incarceration, including his being made the "gal-boy" of a tough inmate his first night in prison, she also breaks through to more subtle depictions. Harlan's memories of his lover-protector, Guzman, are finely rendered studies in ambivalence, as resentment mingles with deference and pity; his yearning for home is palpable and poignant.

We are asked to believe, however, that Harlan's killing of his wife was accidental, and to rejoice in his realization that his jealousy was unfounded, since his daughter resembles him. I, for one, cannot do either.

"All Saints," then, is a first novel sufficiently powerful and engaging to make you quarrel with it — and to look to Karen Palmer for better things in the future.

Body of Lawrence removed from Arlington

Former ambassador who faked war record reburied in San Diego

By Gerry Braun
STAFF WRITER

The remains of M. Larry Lawrence were quietly exhumed from Arlington National Cemetery yesterday, flown across the continent and laid to rest after nightfall in the San Diego burial plot he purchased nearly two decades before becoming a figure of national controversy.

The former U.S. ambassador to Switzerland and chairman of the Hotel del Coronado, who died last year at 69, was the first American to be exhumed from the nation's most prestigious cemetery under a cloud of suspicion. Honoring his family's wishes, Arlington officials kept secret the timing of the morning excavation.

A long, winding tent concealed Lawrence's burial site at El Camino Memorial Park in Mira Mesa yesterday, affording privacy to the small group of mourners who arrived in a convoy of limousines to attend the evening burial. Park security guards aggressively hunted down and evicted reporters and photographers who staked out positions on the cemetery's grassy slopes.

Lawrence's remains arrived in San Diego County aboard a private jet that touched down at Palomar Airport in Carlsbad shortly after 4 p.m., according to observers. The



EDUARDO CONTRERAS / Union-Tribune

In private:
Tents and tented walkways shielded the area at El Camino Memorial Park for mourners when M. Larry Lawrence's body was buried yesterday after a cross-country trip from Arlington National Cemetery.

Stolen glory can bring grief to would-be heroes

By John Wilkens and Mark Sauer
STAFF WRITERS

A country founded in war, America has a thing about military heroes. And military imposters.

From George Washington to Ulysses S. Grant, from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Colin Powell, this nation has always admired — and rewarded — people tempered by the fire of armed conflict.

For almost as long, the temptation to share in that kind of glory has been too great for some. They exaggerate war

stories, or invent them.

That apparently is what happened with the late M. Larry Lawrence, who claimed he was injured during World War II as a member of the merchant marine when the cargo vessel Horace Bushnell was torpedoed by a German submarine.

Evidence now suggests that the story — which helped pave the way for the prominent businessman and diplomat to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery — was a lie. His widow requested that his body be exhumed and moved.

Unless new, more favorable facts come to light, Lawrence will join a long list of public figures who aren't what they seem.

"It starts when they tell a small lie to a couple of people in a way that's innocent enough," said David Halberstam, author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

"Somehow the lie begins to crystallize and have legs and suddenly they find themselves having to live up to it. After a

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See **LIES** on Page A-27

Lies

Some exaggerate or invent tales of heroism

Continued from A-1

while I suspect they come to believe it themselves."

Or, as Mark Twain once put it: "A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

Just last month, James Ware, a federal judge in Northern California, withdrew his nomination for a higher post after it was disclosed that he had fabricated his connection to a civil rights-era shooting in Alabama in 1963.

Before Ware, there was Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jeremy M. "Mike" Boorda, who wore combat devices on his ribbons that he hadn't earned. And Sen. Joe Biden, a Delaware Democrat, who claimed as his own thoughts and words that belonged to other statesmen.

Every field, it seems, has its liars, including journalism. *The Washington Post*, one of the nation's most respected and influential daily newspapers, had to give back the 1981 Pulitzer Prize in feature writing when it turned out that the story being honored was made up by reporter Janet Cooke.

Four years later, Darrow "Duke" Tully, publisher of *The Arizona Republic*, was forced to admit that he had masqueraded for 30 years as a decorated Air Force fighter pilot. He never served in the military.

For all of them the price was high, once the truth put on its shoes. Boorda committed suicide. Biden was eliminated as a candidate for president. Cooke was fired and exiled from her profession. Tully resigned.

Which begs the question: Why do it?

"That's America," said author Gore Vidal. "That's the plow that broke the plain, how we won the West."

"America is based on: 'You don't give away my scam, I won't give away yours.' And when it blows up, as it has in this Lawrence affair, everyone is disappointed because he gave away the game by getting caught. It reminds them of their own lies that they're trying to protect."

Michael Josephson, president and founder of the Josephson Institute of Ethics in Los Angeles, said people throughout time have lied to make themselves seem more heroic or interesting.

"It's a very human weakness," he said. "I'm not saying it's justifiable, but very common."

To him, what's changed about the lies is society's willingness and ability, in the Information Age, to uncover them.

"The really significant thing is to know there was a time when such lies were relatively risk-free," he said. "The chances of people going back and looking at your record was very small."

"Today, the risk is in direct proportion to your celebrity. Every lie we tell is a land mine. We have to revise our belief that there is such a thing as a little lie."

Dr. Joel Fort, a physician and teacher of ethics in San Francisco, thinks things are different today, too.

"The No. 1 factor why people lie about our backgrounds is the highly competitive, adversarial society which we have developed, fostered by lawyers, politicians and sports," he said.

One recent survey of 100 college students by a University of Louisville psychologist showed that 95 percent were willing to lie at least once to get a job; 41 percent said they already had.

Fort also cited the "fragmentation of institutions, the family, the church, the educational and political systems," and the lack of effective role models.

"What we have now are pseudo-heroes, who are really celebrities, celebrated for being well-known. It's usually people in sports, entertainment and politics, and they communicate a very bad role model in terms of being straightforward, being honest, having integrity."

Ben Bradlee, retired editor of *The Washington Post*, agreed that lying is pervasive, especially in Washington, D.C., power circles.

"Why they do it is a question for the shrinks," he said. "I guess they do it because they don't feel good about themselves and they're looking for some way to increase their stature."

He added, "Somehow it has become very easy in America to lie. We don't even call it lying anymore — it's dissembling, or it's putting a spin on the truth when the fact of the matter is it's a bald-faced lie."

Larry Hinman, a professor of philosophy at the University of San Diego, said the motivation for people lying about their background is "because there is almost always a difference between the way things are and the way we want things to be."

"Some people close the gap by *changing* the way things are. Some do it by *saying* things are different and hoping that eventually their actions will catch up with their words. But that very rarely happens."

Union-Tribune Library researcher Merrie Cline contributed to this report.



RICHARD LOUV



Give a child integrity for Christmas

A sense of integrity is among the most important gifts we can give our children. So how do we teach it?

* Larry Hinman, a friend, former truck driver and noted professor of ethics at the University of San Diego, thinks about this question a lot. He struggles every day to teach integrity to his 5-year-old daughter. "If I talk about integrity with my child and don't practice it, I'll actually undermine her sense of integrity," he says. "So I try to practice what I preach. If I tell her no shouting, I try my best to follow my own mandate, and I don't shout. Keeping promises to her is also a part of integrity. She *always* remembers if I keep a promise, and if I don't deliver, she points it out."

Oddly, most families don't talk much about integrity — partly because it's a complex, sometimes-threatening topic. Nintendo is easier to grasp. So here's a short course, courtesy of Professor Hinman. (For the unabridged version, check out his Web site: <http://ethics.acusd.edu/Integrity.html>) Integrity, Hinman says, is about being one, about being whole.

Integrity is about having a sense of your own basic commitments, and sticking to them.

The inner voice

"We know integrity when we see it. Think about Nelson Mandela, the president of South Africa, who invited his longtime jailer to his inauguration, as a guest of honor. Mandela stands for reconciliation and forgiveness, and this action was a stellar example of integrity."

We need integrity to lead a happy and fulfilled life, and so do our kids.

"When we're kids, morality is something that comes from outside, usually from our parents. And it's almost always negative — 'Don't do this,' 'Stay away from that.' This is as far as some people ever get in thinking about morality and integrity. To them, integrity is not about wholeness; it's about not getting caught — by a parent, teacher, boss, the police officer, auditor."

Growing up, at least from the moral point of view, is about developing a positive and internal conception of morality. We don't need integrity because other people force us to have it, says Hinman. We need it for ourselves.

Children, therefore, need to realize that when they cheat, they cheat themselves; their public failures may be fewer, but their internal achievements will be even less. "When my daughter gets a good grade, I tell her, 'Look how proud you can be. You did this *yourself*.' And if she comes home and talks about students who cheat, I can say, 'Think about how hollow they must feel. They may make good grades, and impress other people, but they know inside that they didn't achieve the grades by themselves.'"

Temptation and pressure are the enemies of integrity.

Temptation is internal, pressure external. Temptation is often about gain — what you can get. Pressure is usually about loss; you fear that someone will take something away from you. That's what peer pressure is all about, the fear that if you don't do something that the group wants you to do, you'll be thrown out of the group. Temptation is usually covered up by telling ourselves that we did nothing wrong; pressure is usually construed as 'someone else made me do it.'

When we compromise our integrity, we often do it privately.

"We create a part of ourselves that we do not want the public to see. We hide that part of ourselves even from those who are closest to us. Aristotle once said that virtue is its own reward, and the converse is often true as well: Vice is its own punishment. When we lose our integrity, we lose an important part of ourselves and place a roadblock in the path of our relations with the people who matter most to us."

Hinman grew up in Chicago during the original Mayor Daley era. His father was a policeman assigned to liquor licenses. "That was always a political job," he says. "When I was in the fifth grade, my father had a heart attack. He would not have been able to do the regular street work of a patrolman were he to leave the license unit. So he probably felt forced to stay in that position, for the sake of his family. I have often wondered about the combination of temptation and pressure he experienced, and I have often wondered about whether that was a barrier between him and his family."

That's one reason Hinman believes it's so important for families to talk openly about the issues of integrity.

"I try to play it straight and open with my family, partly because there was a part of my father that I never felt I knew. I want to make sure that my wife and daughter have a strong and clear sense of who I am — and that there are no areas of my life that are out of bounds. Then I'll know that if when they say they love me, they love the real me."

Honesty is not only the best policy, it's the best way of teaching integrity.

RICHARD LOUV's column appears here on Saturdays and on A-3 on Wednesdays. He can be reached by fax, (619) 293-2148; by mail, P.O. Box 191, San Diego, CA 92112; or e-mail, rlouv@cts.com



MBA Advances & Advantages

Arm Yourself With An MBA

In the career-warfare trenches, an advanced degree provides the ammunition to blow away job advancement roadblocks

BY EILENE ZIMMERMAN

New Year's resolutions often involve things like losing weight, quitting smoking or vowing to read the classics. It seems self-improvement is an abiding theme when it comes to the promises we make ourselves, and frequently that improvement takes the form of continuing education. If your resolution for 1998 is to go back to school and get that MBA, you're not alone. In fact, you are in very good — and very diverse — company.

* Charles Teplitz, director of graduate business programs at USD, says the MBA is one of several graduate degrees that employees need today to stay competitive. In San Diego — with its proliferation of

high-tech and biotech companies — the MBA can, for example, help a researcher move into management. "Particularly for those with technical undergraduate degrees and technical experience, getting an MBA allows them to move into other positions. They aren't dead-ended," he says.

Most MBA programs in and around San Diego accommodate working people, providing classes at night and on the weekends. The average student is in his or her mid-to-late-30s, and has about 10 years of work experience. All schools require a bachelor's degree and scores from the GMAT exam — a national, standardized test — for admission.



Charles Teplitz of USD

Randy Hoffman

San Diego State University has an executive MBA program geared especially for mid-career people who have 10 to 15 years of work experience, half of which is in management.

Program secretary Prudy Caravelli says students attend classes every other week, on Fridays and Saturdays, for two years. The first and second year programs run simultaneously. Students spend from 8

a.m. to 5 p.m. in classes both days.

Because the MBA students already are executives, Caravelli says, the school treats them as such. Textbooks are delivered to the classroom and a continental breakfast, full lunch and afternoon snack are included in the tuition, which is \$25,000 for the entire program.

Twenty percent of SDSU's executive MBA students come from engineering/technical, management information systems and research and development backgrounds; 18 percent have administrative backgrounds; 15 percent come from sales and marketing; another 15 percent from operations and production; and 14 percent from professional, legal, medical and insurance backgrounds.

The school's ongoing outcome assessments show the MBA degree has made a significant, long-term difference in the lives of graduates, says Caravelli. "Sixty percent of our graduates have been promoted, often more than one level, and the average salary increase alumni have reported for the last four years is 35 percent," she says.

The University of San Diego's School of Business offers both full- and part-time MBA degrees, with most classes available in the evening. Teplitz says about half the students work full time. Depending on the part-time student's undergraduate degree it takes between two and three years to earn the MBA. The cost, says Teplitz, is about \$1,665 per course.

Areas of emphasis in the program are tied to the region. "These include real estate finance, project management, entrepreneurship, procurement, as well as the traditional finance, management and marketing. We offer an emphasis in international business as well," says Teplitz. The real estate emphasis is headed by Dr. Mark Reidy, the Ernest Hahn Chair of Real Estate.

USD also has a certificate program in project management. The certificate, which is not a degree, involves nine 12-hour courses. The program can be completed in as little as six months and costs \$275 per course, which includes all the related materials. "It's geared toward local project managers, mostly in the high-tech and telecommunications industries, as well as biotech," says Teplitz. USD has a similarly designed, slightly shorter certificate program in international business.

Many of the school's MBA students are doctors, says Teplitz. "We have M.D.s in our program who don't want to practice medicine under the HMOs. Instead they want to move into

see next page

management of their industry."

Blaine Anderson, who graduated from USD in May 1996 and was valedictorian, enjoyed the case-study teaching approach there. "I thought it was a very practical program because of the case studies involving real companies with real problems, most of them in San Diego." Anderson, senior vice president and CFO of Community Care Network Inc., says the MBA was "definitely a factor" in subsequent promotions.

In some instances, those in high-tech industries seeking MBAs are looking northward, towards University of California, Irvine's, Graduate School of Management. Shaheen Husain, associate director of the school's Executive MBA Program, says 10 percent of the students in all three of the school's executive-level MBA programs come from San Diego. *Business Week* magazine recently ranked the school's EMBA program among their top 20 nationwide.

The EMBA program lasts two years, and classes meet on alternating Fridays and Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. "The program is geared toward those who have work experience, but not the breadth of experience needed to manage at a higher level," says Husain. She adds that 40 percent of the starting class this September

represented the high-tech and telecommunications industries.

The cost is of an MBA at UCI is \$48,000 and includes textbooks, a laptop computer and something called residencies, which are three, one-week programs held in locations outside of San Diego, including one in another country.

The school's other MBA program, the Fully Employed MBA, takes about three years to complete. On average, students are slightly younger than in the EMBA program, with less professional experience. Classes meet Thursday evenings and for a half day on Saturdays. The cost is an all-inclusive \$52,000. UCI offers a health care MBA as well, geared toward those in the industry. "About 70 percent of the current class possesses an M.D. and the average work experience is 15 years," says Husain. This program meets once a month, from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon. Participants stay at a nearby hotel and get privately shuttled to campus. The two-year program costs \$56,000.

National University offers working adults two MBA programs. One is considered full-time, and meets two nights a week and one Saturday per month. The program lasts, on average, about 14 months. "We have 14 different areas of specialization within the MBA

programs, ranging from accountancy to entrepreneurship, to global management, marketing and technology management," says Janet Kacskos, public relations director at the university.

She says the hottest specialization right now is technology management, especially big at military bases. "In fact," she says, "the only places that is offered is at our main Mission Valley campus and at the military bases." Geographically convenient to a large portion of the population, National University has 20 campuses around the state, with nine in San Diego. The cost of an MBA at National University is \$9,900. The school begins a 12-month, weekend MBA program at its Mission Valley campus in March, says Kacskos.

John Anderson, a 1997 graduate of National University's MBA program, found the school's one-month-per-course schedule worked well for him. "Since each course is finished in a month, if I had an interruption because of my job or my family, I could take the next month off and not take a course."

Anderson says since most of his instructors were adjuncts, they had their own businesses — or were executives — in the community. "They had real-life experience and practical advice and suggestions that work in San Diego, not just theories," says Anderson, a transportation planner with the San Diego Association of Governments. "You can read the book and get a head full of theories, but they showed me how to apply them."

Andrew Clark, vice president and director of the University of Phoenix's San Diego campuses, says his school's MBA program is full-time, for working adults. Classes in the 26-month program meet one night a week, and the cost is \$295 per semester credit (most courses are either two or three credits). The school also offers an MBA in technology management, the same setup as the regular MBA, but aimed at those in technological fields. "Students are software and mechanical engineers, or those working in a department at a technological company, perhaps human resources or marketing," says Clark.

The technology management program is offered at the University of Phoenix's Rancho Bernardo learning center; regular MBA classes take place at the Murphy Canyon Road main campus. But the program Clark thinks will really take off starts in January 1998. It's called the MSCIS program

— which translates to a masters in computers and information systems. "It is aimed at information systems managers or those looking to become director of IS at their company," he says.

United States International University, on Pomerado Road in San Diego, offers both an MBA and a MIBA — a masters of international business administration. Students can get their degrees on a part-time or full-time basis; part-time simply means taking fewer courses per quarter. Anita Gomes, the school's director of public relations, says classes are offered at night and on the weekends. The international business program has a different course track, with more of an international emphasis than traditional MBA programs, says Gomes.

USIU is unique in that it offers San Diego's only doctoral program in business, the DBA degree, with concentrations in strategic management or international business. Tuition for the MBA programs are \$345 per unit, with a minimum of 60 units required. Tuition for the doctoral program is \$400 per unit, with a completion requirement of 60 to 104 units.

California State University, San Marcos' MBA program is intended for fully-employed students. Depending on each student's undergraduate degree concentration, the program takes between 16 and 21 months to complete. Classes meet every other weekend on Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fees vary, but for California residents tuition is either \$11,171 or \$15,671 depending on whether core courses — necessary program prerequisites — need to be taken. ♦

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE ■ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1997

AROUND THE REGION

LA JOLLA

Dual-degree program at USD

The University of San Diego yesterday celebrated a new dual-degree program in international business with a Mexican university system.

Graduate students enrolled in the 2½-year program will spend at least one year at USD and at least one year at one of the 26 campuses of the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios de Monterrey. Upon completion, they will earn master's degrees from both institutions.

USD and the Mexican system have been collaborating on various educational ventures for about four years. Gregory Gazda, director of USD's Ahlers Center for International Business, said the new program "will produce the next generation of NAFTA executives."

USD and ITEM's Will Sign December 1 Accord For Dual Degree Program

Starting in January, "international business education" will take on a new meaning at USD. Instead of spending a semester or a summer earning credits in a foreign country, a group of graduate students in the School of Business Administration will have an opportunity to earn two concurrent advanced degrees: one from the United States and one from Mexico.

On Monday, December 1, at 1:30 p.m., USD officials will meet at USD's Alcalá Park campus with officials from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey System (ITESM). The two delegations will gather at the Colachis Plaza/Shumway Fountain to participate in a San Diego Signing Ceremony for a new USD-ITESM Dual Degree program.

USD President Alice Hayes and School of Business Administration Dean Curtis Cook will officiate at the December 1 ceremony along with Ing. Ramón de la Peña Marique, Rector of ITESM's Campus Monterrey, and Dr. Jaime Alonso Gómez, Dean of ITESM's Graduate School of Business Administration and Leadership.

Students in the new 2½-year dual degree program will spend

at least 1 year at USD and at least 1 year at any of ITESM's 26 campuses throughout Mexico. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will have earned either a Master of International Business or a Master of Business Administration from USD -and- either a Master of Business Administration or a Master of Science in Marketing or Finance from ITESM.

The Dual Degree program came about four years after USD and ITESM first began collaborating on educational exchange ventures, according to Dr. Gregory Gazda, who is Director of the Ahlers Center for International Business and Director of the MIB Program.

"ITESM is one of Latin America's premier university systems, and we already had a student and faculty exchange program going," said Gazda. "Two of our Business faculty, Denise Dimon and Ellen Cook, have taught courses at ITESM's Monterrey campus.

"We believe this new program will produce the next generation of NAFTA executives," Gazda added. "Its graduates will have knowledge and experience matched by few others. They will speak and understand

both languages; they will grasp both cultures; they will know the practical realities of how business is done in Latin America and in the United States."

Admissions criteria for the program will be fairly stringent. Applicants must have enough fluency in both English and Spanish to take courses in both languages. They also must have two years' work experience in business.

A Mexican signing ceremony for the dual degree program took place in Monterrey on September 22. USD's delegation was headed by Dr. Frank Lazarus, Provost and Academic Vice President, and Dr. Curtis Cook, Dean of the School of Business Administration.

"The ceremony in Monterrey was broadcast live to all 26 of ITESM's campuses," Gazda recalled. "Frank Lazarus spoke on our behalf and delivered his remarks in Spanish and English. It was quite an impressive event."

"This relationship between our two universities is especially exciting because it has the potential to establish USD throughout Latin America as an institution of academic excellence and academic innovation," Gazda said.

International Degrees: USD's School of Business Administration and the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey System signed an agreement last week to begin a dual-degree program. Students enrolled will spend a year each at USD and any of the Mexican school's 26 campuses. Upon successful completion, students will earn either a masters in business administration or international business from USD, or in business administration, marketing or finance from Mexican school.

The dual-degree program has been in the works for about four years, and is headed by Gregory Gazda, director of USD's Ahlers Center for International Business.

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A financial crisis has rolled across Asia and its effects could cross over to California and the United States

Asian economies in crisis

U.S. INTERESTS

The Asian crises — and the slowdowns that the IMF rescue packages are likely to cause — have major implications for U.S. companies and consumers.

Currency devaluations, for example, will lower the cost of Asian goods in the United States, even as they raise the cost of U.S. goods in Asia.

The West Coast could be hit particularly hard, since Asia is a key export market. Economic analysts don't expect a U.S. recession, but they do forecast a slowdown in growth.

Meanwhile, Asian firms seeking to bolster their economies at home may reduce their investment and employment in the United States.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Since early summer, a wave of financial crises has rolled across Asia, battering the economies of Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan.

The crises have depressed currencies, hammered stock markets and, in some countries, sent interest rates soaring.

Although no two crises have been exactly alike, together they demonstrate the need to reform the region's financial sector, where lenders often have made loans based on political rather than financial considerations.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Even with the IMF bailouts, economists say the emerging economies of Southeast Asia are unlikely to recover before 2000.

More established economies, such as Japan and South Korea, may take longer, since their problems are more entrenched.

China might be the next to fall. As the currencies of Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea have tumbled against the dollar, their exporters have undercut Chinese competitors — threatening China's export-driven economy.

BAILOUTS AT A GLANCE

The International Monetary Fund has launched a massive bailout in Asia, extending \$17 billion in loans to Thailand, \$24 billion to Indonesia and, yesterday, \$55 billion to South Korea.

The loans, however, require massive changes to the banking and economic sectors that could produce further economic disruptions and spark popular unrest.



Pedro Marcal, portfolio manager, Nicholas-Applegate

"Unlike Mexico, which was able to solve its economic problems very quickly after receiving an IMF loan in 1995, the problems in Asia seem much more structural.

"The banks need major reforms. There are problems with the political systems. The entire way they engaged in capitalism has inherent problems.

"And the countries that have devalued their currencies may be surprised by the amount of inflation that will occur."



Alan Gin, economics professor, University of San Diego

"Exports to Asia have been one of the big factors contributing to California's growth, and if the slowdown in Asia continues, they'll be buying a lot less of our goods. And it will make it more difficult for them to relocate their operations here.

"The worst, though, would be if the currency problems in Asia spread to a weak economy like Brazil and then touched off shock waves through the rest of Latin America, including Mexico."



Kelly Cunningham, economic research bureau, Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce

"In San Diego, we'll have a little less impact from the economic problems in Asia than the rest of the West Coast. The main reason is that Mexico and Canada account for most of our exports, rather than Asia.

"We don't see anything about what's happening in Asia that would cause us to adjust our economic forecasts."



Yoichi Kambara, executive vice president, Union Bank of California

"The economic problems in Southeast Asia will have a definite impact on the United States, but the impact won't be very straightforward. While some companies will suffer, such as those that export their goods to the region, others could benefit from their weak currencies."

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q When did the Asian crisis start?

A In early summer, when concern about Thailand's economic problems put pressure on the country's currency, the baht, and eventually forced the government to accept a massive devaluation.

Speculators who had shorted the baht — and seen their bets rewarded — then moved through the rest of Southeast Asia, betting against currencies such as the Philippine peso, Malaysian ringgit and Indonesian rupiah.

Q How did it spread?

A The rolling devaluations in Southeast Asia exposed long-running problems in the regional banking centers of South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong, whose banks had extended billions of dollars worth of doubtful loans in the region.

As the banks began to show losses, the stock markets plummeted. South Korea, whose manufacturing conglomerates have deep ties to other emerging economies throughout the region, was hit particularly hard.

Q So the crisis is all about currency speculation?

A Not really. The currency speculation occurred as the countries were struggling with long-term economic problems: overvalued real estate, over-production of semiconductors and automobiles (two of the region's chief exports), poorly run banks, and sluggishly managed corporate behemoths.

Q How did the problems affect America?

A Concern about the stock market collapses in Asia helped precipitate Wall Street's 554-point selloff in late October — the biggest point drop in its history.

Some investors feared that Asian financiers, in search of quick cash, would start selling off their U.S. holdings. Others worried that the Asian problems could lead to an economic slowdown in the United States.

While such fears have subsided and the stock market has rebounded, the threat of a slowdown remains.

Q What is the International Monetary Fund and why did it get involved?

A The IMF was set up after World War II to promote international economic stability and to step in when nations get in trouble.

The IMF has broad powers over countries that turn to it for help: it can impose public spending cuts, currency devaluations and tax increases. These austerity measures are frequently unpopular, and some critics of the IMF say its initials stand for "Imposing Misery and Famine."

Q What's the rescue package for South Korea?

A The \$55 billion package includes \$21 billion from the International Monetary Fund, \$10 billion from the World Bank, and \$4 billion from the Asian Development Bank.

Seven nations pledged an additional \$20 billion in supplementary assistance, led by a U.S. offer of \$5 billion and \$10 billion from Japan.

Q Are there any strings attached?

A The South Korean government has agreed to drastically overhaul its economy by easing barriers to trade and financial services, closing troubled banks, ending government-directed lending, cutting public spending, raising taxes, and liberalizing its employment market. The measures are likely to raise unemployment and slow growth.

Q Will the slowdown have an impact on the United States?

A Some analysts say the fallout could cut three-tenths of a percentage point off U.S. growth next year — from 2.9 percent to 2.6 percent.

Last week, Standard & Poor's predicted that job growth in the Western states, including California, could dip from 3 percent this year to 2.3 percent next year — and 1.9 percent in 1999.

Q How long will the Asian slowdown last?

A Economists say it will be at least 2000 before the emerging economies of Southeast Asia begin to recover.

More established economies, such as Japan and South Korea, may take longer. Some analysts fear the Japanese economy, which is just recovering from the downturn in the 1980s, could be knocked back into a recession.

The problems in a nutshell

Thailand:

The Asian crisis began here in early summer. The currency, the baht, is pegged to the U.S. dollar.

As the U.S. dollar rose against other foreign currencies, the baht also strengthened, hurting Thai exporters, encouraging imports and ballooning the country's account deficit.

That, coupled with a slowing domestic economy and a financial system burdened by bad debt connected to real-estate speculation and unnecessary infrastructure investments, caused investors to begin pulling out of the country. That put further pressure on the baht-dollar peg.

Thailand tried to defend the peg, spending billions of dollars in foreign reserves. In July, however, the government gave up, allowing the baht to plunge and encouraging even more investors to leave the country.

Subsequent attacks on the Malaysian ringitt and the Philippine peso put pressure on those currencies and knocked them off their dollar pegs, too.

Indonesia:

Indonesia was burdened with many of the same problems facing Thailand. The government had spent massively on vanity infrastructure projects, and its banking system was groaning under the weight of bad construction loans. But its biggest problem was \$20 billion in private debt, much of it dollar-denominated.

As speculators attacked the baht, ringitt and peso, the Indonesian rupiah fell, too, making foreign loan payments skyrocket. The specter of widespread bankruptcy loomed.

South Korea:

Banks were pressured to make huge loans to business and industry by a government keen to strengthen the nation's strategic manufacturing base in the years after the Korean War.

Such "politically driven lending," to use Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan's phrase, catapulted South Korea past North Korea and into the ranks of the world's leading industrialized countries.

However, it also encouraged the funding of projects that had little economic rationale or were outside areas of expertise for many companies.

Problems followed, making repayment difficult and creating massive debts for the banks. An unwillingness by banks to foreclose encouraged companies to borrow more and compounded the staggering debt.

Japan:

A meltdown in the Japanese real estate and stock markets in 1990 saddled the country's banks, life insurers and securities firms with mountains of bad debt.

An unwillingness to deal with the problem, coupled with official collusion and a lack of financial transparency, allowed the banks to hide their financial problems.

The reckoning came when concern about the impact the Asian crises might have on Japanese exports rattled investors. The failure of Yamaichi Securities demonstrated the extent of some of the hitherto hidden losses.

Only a government promise to help out the healthiest banks — and close the worst — has curtailed the slide.



MARK NOWLIN / Union-Tribune

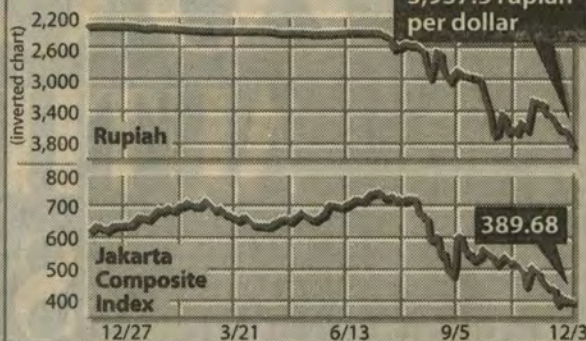
1997: A year of troubles

Financial turmoil has battered currencies and stock markets in Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan.

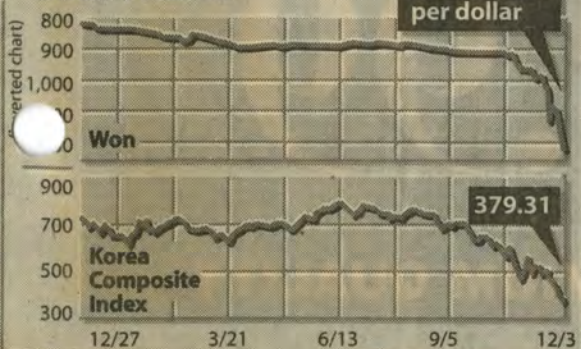
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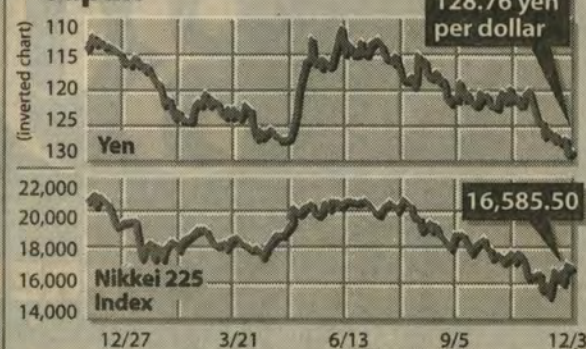
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South Korea



Japan



SOURCE: Bloomberg News

JOHN LAYMAN / Union-Tribune

Local real estate news is all good, and that could be bad

Joy, joy, joy — but then start worrying about overjoy. That's the San Diego real estate outlook — both commercial and residential — for 1998.

Momentum has been building throughout 1997, and should pick up next year.

But liquidity is flowing too bounteously. Wall Street is throwing money at real estate. As is usually true, developers are delighted to grab it whether there is economic need for a project or not.

Figures from the Real Estate Research Council of Southern California (RERC) show impressive San Diego growth in 1997: Housing permits are picking up steam; economists now expect 10,000 this year following five years below 7,000. (However, they averaged above 30,000 in the mid- to late-1980s.)

Home prices are also firming — depending on the market, getting back to or near 1980s levels: Alan Nevin, consultant with **Market Profiles of San Diego**, who sees 12,000 housing permits this year, says there will be price spikes in 1998 and 1999 similar to those of 1988-89, 1978-79 and 1968-69.

The valuations of residential, office building and industrial building permits soared in the third quarter, according to RERC data. Indeed, the dollar valuation of industrial permits topped any quarter in

DON BAUDER



this decade, including 1990, when the 1980s frenzy peaked.

"The industrial market is basically on fire," says Gary London of **London Group Realty Advisors**. "There is speculative turnover — guys are buying and flipping property before there is any building on it."

Rosy scenario

* Mark Riedy, professor of real estate finance at the University of San Diego, talks of "the rosy scenario. The year 1998 looks like a replay of 1997, all across the board a really good year," fueled by improving population growth, jobs, incomes and confidence, combined with shortages of product in some markets resulting from anemic construction in the 1990s.

But Riedy warns, "People in real estate lending, brokerage and development understand real estate, and the people on the capital market side (such as Wall Streeters putting together real estate investment

trust, or REIT, deals) understand money, but neither side understands the other side's fundamental business. It is a recipe for problems down the road — not in 1998, but I would squirrel away capital for slower times in 1999 or the year 2000."

Agrees London, "There is so much money chasing so few deals. In the second half of next year, you could see a period of renewed frenzy in which values of commercial properties will be overbid relative to income streams."

Four-year highs

In the meantime, enjoy the ride. RERC data show that average home prices in North City and North County at \$223,955 are the highest in at least four years. Ditto for properties in beach areas at \$391,000.

The county average of \$219,930 is a shade above the level of October of 1993. Back then, 84 percent of homes suffered negative annual price changes; that percentage is now down to 19. It's down to zero in the beach areas, compared with 100 percent in fall of 1993.

Nevin says that the number of home resales next year may get back to 1980s levels.

"There will be significant increases in home prices over the next 18 months," says London, noting there is very little low-priced construction in the county. The

apartment building boom is concentrated in higher income areas.

"You're going to see people camping out again" to get in line for housing development openings, says London. That was a 1980s phenomenon.

Meanwhile, the commercial side should continue booming. Industrial vacancies are down to the 5 to 7 percent level, says London.

The office sector — once severely ailing — is doing well.

Class C surplus persists

"In office leasing, Class A space (the best, newest buildings) will be the strongest in perhaps 15 years, even downtown," says Nevin. But there is still a surfeit of Class C (lowest) properties, he says.

However, CB Commercial data show that the vacancy rate in downtown buildings constructed in the 1960s is 11.57 percent compared with 15.06 percent for those built in the 1990s.

The overall downtown vacancy rate is still at 15 percent, although the rate is getting down to the 10 to 11 percent rate countywide, London said. "There will be an increase in county office lease rates; the leases done in the early 1990s at very low rates will be up for renewal," he says.

At one point in the decade, office and hotel values were down more than 50 per-

cent. "In the next few years, I think we will have 5,000 new hotel rooms in the county, most of them downtown," says Nevin, although hotel guru Jerry Morrison is warning of potential overbuilding down the road.

Hotel occupancies gain

This year, hotel room occupancy in San Diego should hit 71.7 percent, up a stout 6 percent from a year ago, says Morrison. The average room rate should be almost \$86, up 8 percent. It's too early to forecast 1998, says Morrison, but if current trends continue, room occupancy should top 74 percent while the room rate nears \$91.50.

Total construction won't be strong in every area, warns Nevin: "We need more of everything except retail," he says, and condo construction will remain weak, partly because of litigation woes spooking builders.

Overall for next year, "Leasing of office space looks good, industrial space looks very good, apartment construction — not condos — looks good; it's just going to be a terrific year in 1998," says Riedy.

But, he says, "I am still worried about too much money coming in, underwriting standards slipping, people thinking the good times will never end."

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San Diego jobless rate falls to 8-year low

Unemployment plunges to 3.5% in November

By Craig D. Rose
STAFF WRITER

The toughest bargain to find this season may be a minimum wage employee, as San Diego's unemployment rate plunged last month to an eight-year low of 3.5 percent.

After a gradual decline for several months, the rate fell a steep 0.7 percent from October, according to a report yesterday from the state's Employment Development Department.

* The employment surge parallels rises across the board in the University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators, as well as gains in employment across the state.

In San Diego, the rising job tide has lifted even previously floundering sectors such as finance and real estate, said Alan Gin, a

professor at the university's business school. "All sectors of the economy are doing well," said Gin.

The momentum puts employees in their strongest bargaining position in some time, local experts said.

"One of the things this means is that wages are going to rise," said Kelly Cunningham, research manager at the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

The economists noted that the local unemployment rate was unlikely to remain as low as 3.5 percent for long. "But this is a good problem to have," Gin said.

Some employers already say they're having difficulty hiring the people they need at wages that previously attracted qualified employees.

"When you see good people, you better snatch them up," said Janette Rodgers, manager of Hold It!, a retail chain opening its second store in Mission Valley later this month. "You also need to offer benefits — and that was not always the case."

**"When you see good people,
you better snatch them up
... You also need to offer
benefits — and that was not
always the case."**

Janette Rodgers, manager, Hold It!

Manpower Temporary Services, meanwhile, said recruiting workers in San Diego is the most difficult it's been in two decades.

"The job market is tighter than I have ever seen it," said Phil Blair, owner of the Manpower agency here. "I have a project in Carlsbad where I need 250 for eight months and I have to run an ad for it in El Centro. Those jobs pay \$5.50 an hour."

Blair, who sits on the county's Welfare to Work Task Force, said the employment surge should be particularly good news for

welfare recipients seeking work, although he noted that the open jobs are often difficult to travel to for job seekers.

Statewide, the unemployment rate has declined to its lowest level since before the recession. The jobless rate for November dropped to 5.8 percent, down from 6.9 percent in November 1996 and the lowest since August 1990, said the Employment Development Department.

Not all is rosy, however.

The state rate remains higher than the national figure for November. And the news was not uniformly merry around the state, with rural counties reporting jobless rates as high as 26.5 percent in Imperial County.

While economic indicators such as the jobless rate have been positive for California, tax revenues coming into state coffers since July have been lower than predicted.

Gov. Pete Wilson's Finance Department

See **JOBLESS** on Page C-3

Jobless

Statewide rate fell to 5.8%; lowest since 1990

Continued from C-1

reported this month that revenues are \$400 million below June estimates since the fiscal year started on July 1. The Finance Department had no explanation for the shortfall in its December report, but said it was being assessed and would be included in the Jan. 10 budget plan.

The department also has noted the recent uncertainty in Asian financial markets.

"Events in Asia have implications for California," the Finance Department said. "Over half of California-made goods exports are sold to Asia and the state has already seen declines in cargoes destined for Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia."

John Mitchell, the chief economist for U.S. Bank, also expressed concern about Asia in an otherwise rosy forecast last week for the Western states' economy.

But he said Northern California, along with Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Washington, will remain among the top performers in the national economy in 1998.

Of the unemployed in California, 397,700 were laid off, 60,300 left their jobs voluntarily and the rest were new entrants or re-entrants

into the job force.

Among the counties, those in the San Francisco Bay Area and coastal Southern California generally had very low jobless rates, while rural farm counties had the highest.

San Mateo County had a rate, not seasonally adjusted, of 2.2 percent, followed by Marin County with 2.4 percent, Santa Clara County with 2.5 percent, Orange County with 2.8 percent and Sonoma County with 3.2 percent.

Imperial County had the highest rate, 26.5 percent, followed by Colusa County with 24.2 percent, Sutter County with 16.3 percent, Tulare County with 16 percent and Madera County with 15.3 percent.

F.Y.I.

Colleges Try to Raise Awareness of Cults and Protect Plurality

By JUSTIN GILLIS
and CARYLE MURPHY
THE WASHINGTON POST

Getting ready for her first year at the University of Maryland, Lisa Gaddy was thinking mostly about which classes to take and how to find her way around campus. But at summer orientation and in a handful of classes and meetings this fall, she and other students found themselves reading and talking about cults.

"I was surprised to see it in the list of material they gave us to read," she said. "My second thought was, 'Oh, that can't happen to me. I'm a well-adjusted child.'"

Torn between a commitment to respect pluralism and a desire to protect students on campuses that offer prime hunting ground for destructive cults, schools are trying to make students aware of questionable tactics some groups use to lure and hold members.

"There are a significantly greater number of colleges and universities today that are aware of cult activity on their campuses," said Ronald Loomis, education director for the American Family Foundation, the nation's leading cult watch group. "And they are initiating programs to educate their students and faculty and staff about them."

New students at Georgetown University receive a pamphlet titled "High Pressure Religious Groups" that describes groups using "persistent, manipulative and often dishonest persuasion." A similar pamphlet is mailed to the homes of incoming students at George Washington University. Both schools, as well as American University, provide resident assistants with special training in spotting manipulative tactics.

Howard University's dean of the chapel, Bernard Richardson, said

Howard's Religious Life Committee investigates student complaints about "undue pressures" to join campus groups. Harassment, he added, "is not protected by religious freedom."

Those most vulnerable to deceptive recruiting often are intelligent people who are "between major life affiliations," said Carol Giambalvo, a cult expert in Florida. "People who typically join cults are in a transition stage in life, and I can't think of a bigger one than being in college."

Students fall victim, she said, to what amounts to an elaborate scam. "They are joining something that looks wonderful," she said. Only slowly does the group take control of the student's life and finances, using sophisticated psychological techniques. Even psychologically healthy people are vulnerable, if they have not been trained to recognize the techniques, she said.

"There's a lot of research that shows that when people are aware of the factors that lead to mind control, they're less likely to succumb," said Jim Maas, a psychology professor at Cornell University.

To blunt recruiting drives, administrators at several campuses

nationwide have stripped official recognition from some student groups found to be using deceptive approaches. The groups can be forbidden to use campus facilities or adult members of certain groups can be banned from residence halls.

Robert Watts Thornburg, dean of Boston University's Marsh Chapel and a longtime critic of cults, said universities can avoid jeopardizing religious liberty by focusing on a group's behavior rather than its beliefs. At Boston University, "nowhere do we say that a student cannot practice his religion on campus," Thornburg said. "We do say that a student can't proselytize another student" or harass others. "We've defined religious harassment."

At UC Berkeley, presentations on cults occur regularly in residence halls and other gathering spots. "Berkeley has been a target of most of these groups for years," said Hal Reynolds, a student affairs officer on that campus.

No one asserts that a large number of students fall prey. Among 32,711 students on the University of Maryland's College Park campus, the highest estimates suggest 100 to 200 students are active in cult-like groups at any given time. Other universities offered equally modest estimates.

But in a four- or five-year college career, experts said, a student will probably be approached at least once by cult recruiters.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1997

USD women get Marpe her 200th career victory

USD women's basketball coach Kathy Marpe earned her 200th career win as her Toreros defeated San Jose State 81-64 in a non-conference game yesterday at the USD Sports Center.

Marpe, in her 18th season, has a 200-273 record.

Freshman guard Jennifer Tuiolosega scored a game-high 17 points in 18 minutes for the Toreros (2-4). Susie Erpelding added 14 points, Pat Sencion 12.

Natasha Johnson led the Spartans (2-5) with 16 points.

USD next will play Cal State Fullerton in another non-conference game Friday at 7 at USD.

**LOCAL
COLLEGES**

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE ■ MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1997

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

USD's streakiness leaves Holland low

By Bill Center
STAFF WRITER

FULLERTON — It was not a happy homecoming for Brad Holland.

In his first game back at Titan Gym since leaving Cal State Fullerton in

C.S. Fullerton 76

Toreros 70

1994 for the University of San Diego, Holland's team lost. Fullerton came away with a 76-70 victory in a weird game of streaks that left both coaches searching for answers.

"We can't put teams away," said Fullerton's Bob Hawking after his Titans improved to 4-2.

"We're too streaky," said Holland after the Toreros fell to 3-3.

"Basketball is a game of spurts. But you shouldn't go on vacation out there. We play good in spurts and we have some really bad spurts."

Last night, the Jekyll-and-Hyde Toreros had more bad than good.

Midway through the first half, USD started an 11-2 run that shot them into a

26-21 lead with 5:43 to play.

Within seconds of gaining their five-point lead, however, USD lost point guard Alex Parker for the remainder of the half with three fouls.

Coincidentally, Fullerton went on a 25-9 run. The Titans hit nine straight shots — including four straight threes — to forge a 46-35 cushion at the break.

The Titans continued their hot shooting after the break — they hit 14-of-16 field goal attempts in a 10-minute span — to stretch their lead to 58-39 with 17 minutes to play.

Then USD got hot, scoring 14 straight points to pull back into the game at 58-53 with 12:23 to go.

Twice in the closing minutes, USD pulled to within four. Twice they had a chance to get closer. Neither time did they, the killer coming with 40 seconds to play when freshman guard Dana White threw the ball away with USD having a chance to cut the gap to a basket.

"The biggest lesson hasn't sunk in yet

for us," said Holland.

"No doubt that was a winnable game. But we have a problem. We just don't understand how you have to play hard for 40 minutes to succeed. When we turn it on, we're good. But ... we're a very streaky team and streaky teams don't win. We've got to start playing hard all the time or it's going to be very tough in conference."

USD shot well enough to win. The Toreros hit 55 percent from the floor for the game and were 14-for-20 in the first half.

But the Toreros also committed 20 turnovers and gave up 24 points from three-point range.

The biggest problem for the Toreros, however, was playing the end of the first half without Parker.

"Alex drawing that third foul in the first half killed us," said Holland. "Had we been able to get through the half with Alex on the floor, I think it could easily have been a different story."

For USD is not only streaky, it is thin.

Due to a stress fracture, guard and co-captain Lamont Smith won't play until at least the start of the West Coast Conference season. Smith sets the tempo for the Toreros, who desperately miss his fierceness.

Brian Miles led USD with 19 points and nine rebounds and Brock Jacobsen broke out of a shooting slump with a 5-for-9 night for 14 points — a total equaled by Parker.

But leading scorer Ryan Williams was held to eight and Nosa Obasohan was blanked. Had not White and 7-foot center Jeff Knoll combined for 15 off the bench, USD would have been routed.

Sophomore forward Ike Harmon, an all-Orange County pick in 1995 who sat out last year as a Prop. 48 freshman, led Fullerton with 27 points and 10 rebounds. El Camino High grad Chris Dade scored 13, including back-to-back three-point bombs during Fullerton's first-half run.

Toreros advance in NCAA tournament

Gunsaulus helps USD come back, beat Kansas State

By Bryan Rodgers
SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

LOS ANGELES — The USD women's volleyball team overcame a temporary lapse and rallied to defeat Kansas State in a first-round NCAA Division I tournament match last night at USC's Lyon Center.

USD, advancing to the second round of the Division I playoffs for the first time, won in four games — 11-15, 15-10, 15-7, 15-6.

The victory stretched USD's winning streak to six. During the streak, the Toreros have lost only three games.

USD will face USC tonight at 7. The Trojans defeated Morgan State 15-2, 15-7, 15-7 last night.

"We're excited to be in the second round," said Toreros coach Sue Snyder, "but by no means are we satisfied."

Middle blocker Sara Gunsaulus and outside hitter LaManda Mounts led USD by combining for 42 kills. Petia Yanchulova added 17.

USD (26-3) surged to an 8-1 lead in the first game before falling into a funk.

"We jumped to an early lead and

kind of sat back," Snyder said. "That's when (K-State) stopped making errors and got back into the match."

Kansas State (20-13) used a solid wall of blockers and Dawn Cady had 10 kills in the first game.

"Kansas State is big and physical," Snyder said. "They rattled us with their blocks."

Fortunately for the Toreros, the rattling didn't last long.

USD stormed back in the final three games to earn its 25th win in its last 26 matches.

Kansas State coach Jim McLaughlin said USD's defense frustrated his team.

"To San Diego's credit, they

were able to dig a lot of our shots and it was frustrating," McLaughlin said.

"We're usually a pretty good team when we're in our system. Tonight we never got in that system. Plus, when we did have opportunities to convert we didn't."

Gunsaulus and Mounts played a big part in keeping Kansas State off track.

Besides getting a match-high 24 kills, Gunsaulus was intimidating at the net. The 6-foot-2 senior had several blocks.

Mounts, who had 18 kills in 52 attempts, is looking forward to fac-

ing USC.

Her younger sister, Janice, is the starting setter for the Trojans.

"I'm looking to beat them tonight," Mounts said. "We are going to push them harder than they expect to be pushed."

USC (22-5) is ranked No. 7 in the country in the latest *USA Today* poll.

"We were really focused for Kansas State," Snyder said. "Now we have to regroup and get ready for USC."

The winner tonight advances to the Pacific Regionals next weekend at a site to be determined.

Olé! Toreros outlast Matadors

By Bill Center
STAFF WRITER

The past four years haven't always been easy for USD forward Nosa Obasohan.

He's had problems adjusting to defenses.

Toreros 71

CS Northridge 69

And the ball has at times

flown through his hands.
But the man can shoot — as Cal State Northridge painfully discovered with two seconds to play last night at the USD Sports Center.

That's when Obasohan swished a three-pointer to give the Toreros a 71-69 victory over the Matadors.

It was a perfect shot. Perfect arch. Perfect follow through. Dead center from 20 feet distance and to the left of the lane.

In fact, the toughest part for Obasohan was picking up the low pass from point guard Alex Parker.

"I've never had a shot like that in college," said Obasohan, who as a prep was the three-point shooting leader in Houston. "I had a good feeling. No thought. Just shooting."

Shooting has always come naturally for Obasohan. It's been the other parts of the game that had kept him in the wings for three seasons.

"Nosa, above all else tonight, came ready to play," said USD

coach Brad Holland. "That's the kind of effort we need from him every day."

"It's really the first time I've seen that look from him in a game. He just stepped up. He's waited for his turn to start and play significant minutes. For him to play a game like that is very important for us."

Obasohan equaled his three-game-old career high of 17 points. He was 5-for-8 from the floor, including 3-for-5 from three-point range.

"The main thing," said Obasohan, "is that I could always do it. I've always had this in me. But in years past, I was looking over my shoulder."

It's tough to shoot when you're looking over your shoulder. Especially when most of Obasohan's stay at USD was spent as the understudy to Sean Flannery — USD's No. 5 Division I career scorer. Currently, Obasohan is shooting and scoring at a Flannery-like clip.

"It's my position now," Obasohan said. "In years past, if I made a mistake I was looking for the guy replacing me. Now they're stuck with me. Basketball is a mind game."

Northridge certainly got in the mind of USD. Former Loyola

Marymount forward Mike O'Quinn led a closing 9-1 run that gave the Matadors (1-3) a 36-33 lead at intermission.

Then CSUN guard Greg Minor (21 points) hit three three-pointers in 69 seconds to shoot the visitors into a 66-59 lead with 4:25 remaining.

Brian Miles (18 points), Obasohan, Ryan Williams (14) and Parker (11) led USD's rally. The Toreros pulled to within 69-68 on Miles' short jumper with 1:38 to play.

With the shot clock ticking down, the 5-foot-11 Parker blocked the 6-3 Minor's shot with 35 seconds to play and the 6-5 Obasohan tied up CSUN's 6-7 Jabari Simmons for the rebound.

The possession arrow was in favor of USD. So, it turned out, was the game.

"It was very encouraging," said Holland. "We didn't play very well against a good team (Northridge beat Pepperdine 81-66 on Saturday) and were able to eke out a win."

"What I liked is that we showed some fortitude. In the last six to seven minutes, we executed our halfcourt offense better than we have all season."

"And Nosa hit a big shot."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Toreros dominate inside and out

By John McCloskey

SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

CEDAR CITY, Utah — Getting the ball inside to the post has been the game plan for the University of San Diego basketball team all season. And in last night's game against

Toreros 84**Southern Utah 59**

Southern Utah, San Diego's post players did beat the Thunderbirds inside. But 6-foot-8 Brian Miles and 6-5 Nosa Obasohan put on another beating from the outside, knocking down all six of their three-point attempts, including four in a row early in the second half, to lead USD (4-3) to an 84-59 non-conference victory at The Centrum.

After Southern Utah (1-7) had trimmed a 10-point halftime deficit to six with athletic buckets from leading scorers Tarvish Felton and Kenyatta Clyde, the Toreros went on a game-clinching 16-0 run, which was capped by four consecutive three-pointers — one from Miles and three from Obasohan.

The run ballooned the lead to 22 points, all

but ending the game, and continuing Southern Utah's losing streak, now at six games.

Miles finished the game with 23 points on 8-of-12 shooting and he was 5-of-5 from the free-throw line. Obasohan added 12 points by hitting four of his five shots, all of them from behind the arc.

"I came out a little sick. I wasn't feeling too well in the first half," said Obasohan. "But I came out and hit the first one (three-pointer). And I felt it a little bit. I hit the second one. And he went for the steal on the third one and I was wide open."

Miles and Obasohan played 13 and 11 minutes in the second half, since the game was in hand so early. Ryan Williams added 16 points for USD, 13 of which came in the second frame.

San Diego shot 62.2 percent from the floor for the game, 63.6 percent from three-point land, and 72.4 from the free-throw line. But the numbers USD coach Brad Holland was the most pleased with were Southern Utah's 37.1 percent shooting from the field and 24

turnovers. And Southern Utah did not hit a three-point shot until 5:41 remained in the game.

"Our man-to-man defense was solid throughout the game," Holland said. "That helped spark our offense, and we did a good job of executing. Our bench has also been a big key for us, and tonight they did a good job of keeping the intensity up on the floor."

Felton led Southern Utah with 24 points. The 6-5 junior had several crowd-pleasing slams, including one during an 8-4 run to start the second half.

But after that short burst, Southern Utah fell behind quickly. And the T-Birds could never get control of USD's inside game.

"I'm not very happy with the way we played," Southern Utah coach Bill Evans said after the game, holding back an opinion of how bad his team played. "We didn't execute on offense, and we didn't guard hard enough on defense. That's a bad combination."

Southern Utah's loss was the second home loss in a row, something that has happened just once since The Centrum opened in 1988.

Parker's late score saves USD

By Paul Burns

SPECIAL TO THE UNION-TRIBUNE

BOZEMAN, Mont. — When East meets West in the frozen north, someone has to go south. Last night, Alex Parker made sure it wasn't going to be USD.

Toreros 64

Monmouth 63

It was Parker's running jumper in the lane with four seconds to play that lifted the Toreros to a 64-63 win over Monmouth University of New Jersey last night.

With time running out in the first game of the Buttrey's Holiday Classic on the Montana State campus, the 5-foot-11 Parker took a pass on the wing and drove to the lane, scoring over several taller Monmouth players.

"After I saw the clock, I thought I

might as well shoot it," Parker said. "In that situation, you want to go to the bucket."

Monmouth's Maurice Williams, who led all players with 17 points, missed a desperation shot at the buzzer. The loss kept the Hawks winless at 0-9. USD improved to 7-3 and plays tournament host MSU (7-3) in tonight's championship game.

"Alex did what we talked about," USD coach Brad Holland said. "If it goes to you, go to the bucket or pass it off. He executed it very well."

For most of the game, it looked as if no last-second heroics would be necessary. Parker, who finished with 13 points, scored eight straight to give the Toreros a 56-39 lead with 9:52 to play. The 17-point advantage was their biggest of the

night and built on a 35-24 halftime lead.

But suddenly USD went as cold as the fresh snow that blanketed the ground outside.

"We didn't have any intensity," said USD's Ryan Williams, who scored a team-high 16 points. "We were up by 17, and we were content with that."

Trailing 60-44 with less than eight minutes to play, Monmouth went on a 10-0 run over the next minute and a half. A basket by Ryan Williams broke the streak and made it 62-54, but Monmouth scored the next nine points, finally taking a 63-62 lead with 23 seconds to play.

"We looked fatigued. We looked a step slow," Holland said. "We looked like we were sleepwalking at times."

USD's Brian Miles, who scored 13 points, led all players with eight rebounds.

Toreros kick up heels running

Miles scores 24 as USD guards easily break St. Francis' press

By Bill Center, STAFF WRITER

Traditionally, athleticism and University of San Diego basketball have not gone hand-in-hand.

USD typically fields smart teams with a deadly shooter or two. Toreros don't make mistakes and prey on those of the opponents.

Toreros 86

St. Francis 78

Real Toreros, however, don't run. Or haven't. When games kick into high gear, it's usually the Toreros who are killed by the pace.

Or at least that's the way it's been.

Brad Holland's 1997-98 club might not be like their predecessors.

Last night at the USD Sports Center, the hosts were matched with a St. Francis of New York team that favors an up-tempo brand of basketball.

The Terriers ran. So did the Toreros. And the hosts won the running game, blowing huge holes in the St. Francis press to score an 86-78 victory.

The game wasn't that close . . . really.

The Toreros led 85-67 with 53 seconds to play when Holland cleared his bench.

Bad move.

The 5-4 Terriers scored 11 straight points in a span of 39 seconds to pull within seven before Mike Courtney closed the scoring with a free throw.

The last-minute follies couldn't take the edge off USD's best game of the season.

"I think we've shown solid improvement the last couple of weeks," said Holland after his team sweetened its record to 6-3 with its third straight game of

more than 80 points.

"Our defense has really improved. I like the direction we're going."

Which last night was rapidly up the court.

"We unveiled our secret weapon tonight," said point guard Alex Parker, who had four steals and seven assists while riding point for the USD break.

"We can run, and that's my style of play. It was one of those things. They forced us to do what they wanted us to do and we did it better than they did. And I think other teams will find that out this season. We can run."

Which is something of a breakthrough at USD.

"When we pick the right spots, we can play fast-break basketball," said Holland. "St. Francis likes to run. They wanted to get us into an up-tempo game. They're probably a little surprised we ran as well as we did."

The Toreros were again led by forwards Brian Miles (24 points, nine rebounds) and Ryan Williams (16 points, 7 rebounds).

But instead of working hard inside to get their points, Miles and Williams were getting easy baskets off the break against the Terriers.

"It was nice the way it worked tonight," said Miles. "You've got to like the way we reacted to their jumping and trapping defense. It's comforting to know that when a team fullcourts us, we've got guards that can quickly get it up court."

"Not only did we get easy baskets against their press, we got into the offense quicker."

Shooting guards Brock Jacobsen and Lamont Smith both downed a pair of threes and finished with 12 points. Smith's back-to-back threes early in the second half gave the hosts their first 10-point lead at 50-40.

And Parker had 10 points to go with his floor game.



JIM BAIRD / Union-Tribune

Trying one: USD's Jeff Knoll launches hook shot and got two points on goal-tending call against St. Francis.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Toreros' Smith picks good game for return

By Bill Center

STAFF WRITER

On the surface, it was not a big game for the University of San Diego.

The Toreros were supposed to beat Irvine's Concordia University, an NAIA team.

Toreros 86

Concordia 56

And the hosts won 86-56 to run their record to 5-3.

It was a big night, though, for USD co-captain Lamont Smith, who made his season debut after recovering from a stress fracture to the tibia in his left leg.

"This felt pretty great," said Smith, who scored 11 points in 14 minutes and hit two of the Toreros' 13 three-pointers.

"I didn't want to come back right before conference play started. I wanted to ease in."

Smith is not one of the Toreros' scoring leaders. But the 6-foot-2 junior guard is one

of USD's top defenders and floor players.

"As soon as Lamont began practicing Tuesday, I could tell that things were livelier and more intense," said USD coach Brad Holland.

"And for him to play that well tonight is very encouraging. I must say, Lamont looked fresher than I thought he would. He was quick. That's a credit to our team physician (Dr. William Curran) and trainer (Carolyn Greer).

"When I heard Lamont was going to miss four to six weeks, I was hoping he'd be back by Jan. 1. As far as I'm concerned, it's great to have him for five games before we start conference play."

Actually, Smith returned to practice seven weeks to the day after he was diagnosed with a stress fracture.

"I played more than I thought I would tonight," said Smith, who had five assists and

a steal to go with his 11 points. "But I felt good. I'm not 100 percent, but I'm closer than I thought I might be."

Holland measured Smith's fitness at around 75 percent. "Knowing Lamont, he'll make up that other 25 percent pretty quick," said Holland. "I've never had to worry about him getting ready."

The Toreros had an off-and-on effort against the 5-5 Eagles.

USD jumped off to a 10-0 lead with all five starters scoring — four of the baskets coming on breakaway lay-ins. But Concordia battled back against a makeshift lineup to take an 18-17 lead at the 10-minute mark.

It was then that the hosts began bombing away, hitting seven straight threes — two each by Nosa Obasohan, Alex Parker and Smith and one by Williams — to break the game open at 38-24.

USD's 13 three-pointers was one away

from the school record and gave the Toreros 20 in their last two outings. USD had averaged only 4.7 three-pointers in their first six games.

USD's starting five played exactly half the second half and no starter played more than 27 minutes.

Parker and Brian Miles shared the scoring honors with 13 apiece. Ryan Williams had 12 and Obasohan and Smith both had 11. Ten of USD's 12 players scored and all but two of the reserves played at least a dozen minutes.

Concordia was led by forward Kalim Scott, who had 22.

It was not a good night for former 1993 San Diego County player of the year Jerome Green. After failing to score — he was 0-for-6 from the floor in nine minutes — Green had an altercation with a Concordia assistant coach and faces disciplinary action.

Ring out the old year

Some winners, losers and some in-betweeners

While we prepare to turn the page on yet another year, it seems appropriate to glance backward and assess the performance of people and organizations in the San Diego region. Since this kind of exercise is wholly subjective, it strikes us that you may have a completely different take, and we welcome your letters and postcards reflecting contrary opinions. Remember to keep your submissions brief and to the point, to fit within our "Letters to the Editor" format.

Let's start with Gov. Pete Wilson.

Yes, we know that Wilson resides in Sacramento, but he's still a San Diegan who made quite a comeback after his futile presidential campaign of 1996. A rebounding economy and his grasp of education issues gave him a leg up on the Democratic-controlled Legislature. Although his job-approval rating remains static for the most part, he's managed to regain the initiative.

Mayor Susan Golding has seen her once-rising political star — remember her speech and TV appearances during the GOP Convention? — come crashing down with a thud in the wake of her missteps on the festering stadium controversy and other issues. Even though ours is a city-manager style of government, San Diegans expect their mayor to step up to the challenges confronting this city. While we believe she can still regain a major leadership role, the damning perception remains that she's been missing in action on key fronts.

It's also been a rough year for the City Council. The lawmakers never regained their footing after being spooked by the firestorm surrounding the stadium expansion in general and the 60,000-seat guarantee in particular. They flinched on the Convention Center expansion while hoping to strike a deal with opponents. Meantime, they are pondering Golding's panicky recommendation that all civic building projects exceeding \$50 million be approved by public vote.

■ ■ ■

County Chief Administrative Officer Larry Prior, on the other hand, showed himself to be an effective leader. The skill with which he removed the trash-to-energy white elephant from the taxpayers' backs was nothing short of inspired. Too bad he couldn't have been present at the creation of this clunker several years ago. Our guess is that he would have set the supervisors straight. Granted, he took a hit on the bonuses awarded to certain county officials. Nonetheless, his performance-based plan makes far more sense than automatic pay increases regardless of merit. Prior's keen grasp of county issues makes us look forward to his encore year.

Port Director Larry Killeen is another newcomer who, since coming here from Tacoma two years ago, has proven to be a quick study. His vision for San Diego as a maritime port is matched by his determination to get things done. Don't be misled by his John Candy countenance. This is a serious fellow who knows exactly what he wants and how to achieve same.

Padres owner John Moores and his sidekick Larry Lucchino are no less adept in transforming dreams into reality. OK, OK, so the Pads crashed and burned this year after winning the National League West. But name another pair of professional sports owners who are more committed to the community in which they live. And regardless of a subpar season, excepting per usual the extraordinary Tony Gwynn, who won his umpteenth batting title, the ownership duo's team managed to draw 2 million-plus because they work so hard at putting a product on the field that is fun to watch. Besides, 1998 promises to be a banner year, with the addition of Kevin Brown to the pitching staff. If anyone will be able to pull off building a new baseball park in light of the acrimonious stadium fallout, these guys can do it.

Alex and Dean Spanos, along with Bobby Beathard and Kevin Gilbride, would just as soon forget 1997 for obvious reasons. A perverse form of Murphy's Law seemed to infect the hapless Chargers at nearly every turn. Save for Junior Seau, Gary Brown and Eric Metcalf, there were precious few bright spots in an otherwise dark and dreary season. That's too bad, because Alex has been very generous to the city.

San Diego's burgeoning biotech industry continues to expand. Ditto for other going concerns such as SAIC, Solar Turbines, Cubic and Qualcomm Inc. that are doing quite well. It was a very good year for Qualcomm, which saved the city \$18 million on the stadium expansion and then, along with the Spanoses, helped buy up the seats needed to lift the television blackout on several Chargers games.

■ ■ ■

Cecil Lytle also came out a winner with his principled stand when it appeared UCSD's charter school was going down to defeat. This gentleman, who was a driving force behind the project, submitted his resignation as provost of the Thurgood Marshall College. He reconsidered only after being assured that the project would be resurrected in some form. And thanks in large part to his perseverance, and that of Chancellor Robert Dynes, it was.

* The other three university presidents, SDSU's Stephen Weber, USD's Alice B. Hayes and CSUSM's Alexander Gonzalez, have demonstrated the skills needed to guide their complex institutions.

Sadly, school district strife was commonplace throughout the region.

San Diego Unified's new board majority got crossways with Superintendent Bertha Pendleton after deciding to launch a search for her successor when she became a candidate for the Dallas job. Even though the tension is palpable between the board and the super who retires at school year's end, the district is moving forward.

The Vista school board, which a few years back made the network news because of its crusade to inject creationism into the curriculum, was back in the spotlight for approving a gag order. Four board members took it upon themselves to approve a policy prohibiting anyone from criticizing a school administrator. Never mind the First Amendment rights of citizens to speak freely at public gatherings. The Vista board finds such protections annoying.

Particularly annoying are the antics at Grossmont Union that have prompted this page to initiate a watch on the district. Grossmont is a case study in what happens when a zealous band of busybodies seizes control of a school board and begins to work its mischief via a sorry superintendent.

The Oceanside Unified School District, which is looking better under Superintendent Ken Noonan, didn't exactly cover itself with glory when it nearly expelled a third-grader for getting into a playground scrape with another child. Had the board approved the expulsion, this 8-year-old would have had nowhere to go because the county's summit school program for expelled kids begins at sixth grade.

Lenny Bruce 101

Bill Maher recently popped by the University of San Diego campus in search of writers for his late-night ABC sitcom, *Politically Incorrect*. On an admittedly experimental talent hunt at several colleges, Maher plans to probe student bodies for fresh comedy minds. But the fortysomething former standup comic isn't seeking undergrad gag-smiths to hammer out typical talk-show monologue jokes. Maher wants angry, original, bright and even blasphemous material for the irreverent roundtable of a show he created and has described as "The McLaughlin Group on acid." A qualified collegian (Maher's staff will check student IDs) who lands a writing gig gets a 13-week contract and will be paid Writers Guild scale.

—BILL OWENS



Looking for a few good laughs: Bill Maher

Duck, Duck . . . a Talking Goose

Local entertainers George and Riette Ormond team up with 10 pounds of bird they affectionately call Cuddles, "The Laughing, Talking Wonder Goose." The goose's talents, once displayed on TV's *The Gong Show*, are available for birthday parties and singing telegrams.

"We are a typical American family," says George. (Sure, and so were Wilbur and Mr. Ed.)

But apparently the venerable Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., backs up Ormond's claim. A portrait of George, Riette and Cuddles was recently displayed in the "American Families in Photographs" exhibit in the nation's capital.

The photo was displayed on a touch-screen computer terminal. Viewers could select "California," "San Diego" and then "Ormonds" for a gander at goose and gang. Turns out Discover Card—sponsor of the exhibit—randomly selected some 3,000 photos, according to Smithsonian spokesperson Stacy Coates, and Cuddles and company made the cut.

The Ormonds are proud of Cuddles' multiword "vocabulary," which includes apple, waffle and watermelon. In fact, the Ormonds translate clearer than Cuddles "talks," but she does quack out the correct number of syllables in words Riette requests. Usually.

Cuddles appears in the December 6 North Park Toyland Parade. She'll also give Santa Claus some help this year. George and Riette have cowritten *Cuddles Helps Santa Claus Save Christmas*, now on sale in book and audiocassette form. Info: 691-6300.

—JAMES SAWATZKI

4 local universities pool library resources

By Jeff Ristine
STAFF WRITER

In the higher-education equivalent of a megamerger, San Diego County's top four universities are promising their students and faculty fast and convenient access to each other's library books.

Beginning next month, UC San Diego, San Diego State University, Cal State San Marcos and the private University of San Diego will share their mammoth collections — a combination of more than 7.5 million books — with deliveries

from one campus to another in a matter of hours.

"There are unique materials at every one of these libraries," said Gerald Lowell, UCSD librarian and chairman of the library consortium's steering committee.

The universities plan public access to their books, through deliveries to neighborhood library branches, sometime later.

The library consortium is similar to a statewide system in Ohio, but is said to be the first of its kind in California.

Until now, students who needed a book unavailable on campus often had to submit requests through a national interlibrary loan system that can take anywhere from four days to two weeks or more. SDSU students and faculty have access to a somewhat more convenient link to four other California State University libraries; however, the service still takes a few days.

But the unofficial slogan of the consortium — "in by 10 a.m., out by 3 p.m." — promises delivery in as little as five hours. Lowell said a commercial courier service will shuttle books between campuses.

Students, faculty and staff at the four universities will be able to access on-line catalogs of all the institutions from a computer terminal, ordering delivery of any available book to their home-campus library.

Although UCSD has the largest collection among the four, Lowell said there is no reason to think it will wind up doing all the lending.

Each university, he noted, has strengths and specialties the others can draw upon — the law library at USD, for instance, and material on business and education at SDSU.

UCSD has an extensive science and oceanography collection, with many books unavailable elsewhere in town. And while Cal State San

Marcos' collection, at 200,000 volumes, is the smallest, campus spokeswoman Norma Yuskos said the books tend to be newer than those at the other universities.

Amid rising costs, many university librarians are finding access to books is more important than possession. "Every library cannot own every book," said Nancy Carol Carter, director of the USD law library.

Law students, Carter said, often do cross-disciplinary research in fields — economics or biotechnology, for example — where traditional law library materials may be skimpy. At the same time, there may be faculty members at San Diego State who need to consult legal materials from time to time.

One limitation to the library consortium is that it will not allow swapping of professional and technical journals, where the latest and most specialized research is often first published. Journals typically don't circulate outside the home library.

Lowell said the consortium hopes to open its books to users at 66 public libraries throughout the county sometime in the next year, giving anyone with a library card access to the universities' rich resources. There may be a fee charged for the service, he said.

USD to host three-week educational seminar program

A three-week winter program of educational seminars and exercise will be offered by USD's University of the Third Age Jan. 5-23. More than 20 sessions will take place at the University of San Diego's Manchester Executive Conference Center, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego.

The seminars include "Managed Care Beware!" and "Viewing San Diego Through the Internet." Lecturers include Ricardo Caivano from the American Red Cross who

SENIOR SCENE

CAROLINE DIPPING

will talk about the issue of land mines and Father Benedict Groshel, director of the office for spiritual development for the Archdiocese of New York, who will talk about miracles.

The fee for all sessions is \$75;

\$70 for two weeks; and \$60 for one week. To register, call (619) 260-4231.

Special events

■ "O Little Town of Bagels, Tea Cakes and Hamburger Buns," a nontraditional Christmas drama set in a bakery in a Palestine, Texas, train depot, shows at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2930 Howard Ave., San Diego. Free admission. Information: (619) 563-0560.

Trips and tours

■ KIT Tours is sponsoring a trip to Hong Kong for the Chinese New Year, Jan. 24-31. Prices start at \$1,235 for double occupancy. Information: Kitty Smith, (619) 748-4967.

■ Baja California Tours Inc. presents "Follow the Whales," a trip to see the winter migration of California gray whales to Baja-area lagoons, Feb. 8-14. Cost is \$1,199/single, \$999/double. Information: (619) 454-7166.

■ The Trailsetters Travel Club will travel to Pala Mesa Resort in Fallbrook for Christmas dinner Thursday. Cost is \$48. Information: (619) 231-5999.

Miscellaneous

■ Older Adult Service and Information System is recruiting seniors interested in helping elementary school children improve their read-

ing skills. Tutors are given a 12-hour training session. The time commitment is one hour per week at the student's school. Information: (619) 531-1131.

Send items for publication to Senior Scene, The San Diego Union-Tribune, P.O. Box 191, San Diego, CA 92112-4106. Receipt deadline is Tuesday for the following Saturday's column.

News in Brief



USD Joins in Phase I of Library Circuit Consortium

The University of San Diego will join the University of California at San Diego, San Diego State University and California State University, San Marcos for the first phase of the San Diego Library Circuit Consortium. Phase I starts in January in the project that is the first of its kind in the state. The circuit will give faculty and students at USD access to an estimated 2 million titles beyond what the Copley Library and the Pardee legal Research Center now own. If USD had to acquire the books, the estimated cost would be \$80 million. The space needed for the titles would equal the volume of the Immaculata, along with Camino and Founders halls.

The new consortium will pool the libraries' electronic catalogs. If the book is available at another campus, it can be requested and is delivered to Alcala Park within 24 hours. Phase II of the consortium will include all 66 San Diego city and county libraries.

Combined Parish Choirs Hold Dec. 21 Concert

The combined choirs of St. Catherine Laboure and St. Mary Magdalene parishes will sing Christmas music ranging from ancient chants to songs from this century at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 1945 Illion St. The Christmas concert and sing-along is open to the public.

Inspiration for a combined concert came while Denny di Paolo, St. Mary Magdalene music director, and Judith Oishei, St. Catherine choir director, attended the National Association of Pastoral Musicians Conference in Indiana last summer. The two music leaders will take turns conducting the choirs at the concert. "The members of both choirs have had a wonderful experience getting to know our brothers and sisters five minutes away," Oishei indicated. "The fact that our relationship has been sharing our love of God through music has made it very special indeed."

Conference to Focus on Christian Jubilarians

"Living Faith as Christian Jubilarians in the 21st Century" is the theme of the "Spring Forward" midyear catechetical conference scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 31, at the University of San Diego's Shiley Theater, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is sponsored by the diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechetical Ministry.

Conference presenter Dr. Eleanor Ann Brownell will explore what faith will look like in the 21st century and the impact personal faith has on ministry. She is the vice president of consultant services for William H. Sadlier, Inc., publisher of religious education programs. Cost of the conference is \$7 per person before Jan. 26 and \$8 afterwards. Participants can receive three hours of renewal credit for OECM and schools. Deadline for pre-registration is Jan. 6. For more information, call 490-8232.



Seminars for Senior Learners

Lifelong learners over 55 are invited to sign up for University of the Third Age (U3A) winter session at the University of San Diego. The three-week program of educational seminars and exercise runs from Jan. 5-23, with more than 20 sessions held at the university's Manchester Executive Conference Center. Topics and lecturers include "Do You Believe in Miracles?" presented by Father Benedict Groschel, director of the Office for Spiritual Development for the New York Archdiocese. "Managed Care Beware!" is the title of Dr. Harvey Shapiro's presentation. Network systems consultant Lawrence McIntosh will speak on "Viewing San Diego through the Internet." Attorney Ron Carrico will talk on "Private Financing for a Baseball-Only Stadium: What the Media Doesn't Want You to Know."

In addition, U3A attendees can participate in a daily class of Tai Chi Chuan, an ancient form of non-impact exercise. Classes will be held in Sacred Heart Hall. The fee for all U3A sessions is \$75, two weeks is \$70 and one week costs \$60. To register, receive a program schedule and for information, call 260-4231.